

# EXHIBIT A

Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County  
Trial Division  
**Civil Cover Sheet**

For Prothonotary Use Only (Docket Number)	
<b>JULY 2023</b> E-Filing Number: 2307023984 <span style="float: right;"><b>01242</b></span>	
PLAINTIFF'S NAME MARISA GRASSO	DEFENDANT'S NAME HARD ROCK HOTEL & CASINO
PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS 185 BISHOP DRIVE ASTON PA 19014	DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS 1000 BOARDWALK ATLANTIC CITY NJ 08401
PLAINTIFF'S NAME VINCENT GRASSO	DEFENDANT'S NAME HARD ROCK CAFE INTERNATIONAL, INC.
PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS 185 BISHOP DRIVE ASTON PA 19014	DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS 28 LIBERTY STREET NEW YORK NY 10005
PLAINTIFF'S NAME	DEFENDANT'S NAME HARD ROCK CAFE, INC.
PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS	DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS 1760 MARKET STREET SUITE 1100 PHILADELPHIA PA 19103
TOTAL NUMBER OF PLAINTIFFS 2	TOTAL NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS 4 COMMENCEMENT OF ACTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complaint <input type="checkbox"/> Petition Action <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Appeal <input type="checkbox"/> Writ of Summons <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer From Other Jurisdictions
AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000.00 or less <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> More than \$50,000.00	COURT PROGRAMS <input type="checkbox"/> Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> Mass Tort <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> Settlement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jury <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Action <input type="checkbox"/> Minor Court Appeal <input type="checkbox"/> Minors <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Jury <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Appeals <input type="checkbox"/> W/D/Survival <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
CASE TYPE AND CODE 2S - PREMISES LIABILITY, SLIP/FALL	
STATUTORY BASIS FOR CAUSE OF ACTION	
RELATED PENDING CASES (LIST BY CASE CAPTION AND DOCKET NUMBER) <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>FILED</b>  <b>PROTHONOTARY</b>  <b>JUL 13 2023</b>  <b>G. IMPERATO</b> </div>	
IS CASE SUBJECT TO COORDINATION ORDER? YES NO	
TO THE PROTHONOTARY: Kindly enter my appearance on behalf of Plaintiff/Petitioner/Appellant: <u>MARISA GRASSO , VINCENT GRASSO</u> Papers may be served at the address set forth below.	
NAME OF PLAINTIFF'S/PETITIONER'S/APPELLANT'S ATTORNEY MICHAEL D. LAROSA	ADDRESS LAROSA LAW FIRM 959 WEST CHESTER PIKE HAVERTOWN PA 19083
PHONE NUMBER (610) 924-0999	FAX NUMBER (610) 924-0473
SUPREME COURT IDENTIFICATION NO. 50011	E-MAIL ADDRESS MI@LAROSALAWFIRM.COM
SIGNATURE OF FILING ATTORNEY OR PARTY MICHAEL LAROSA	DATE SUBMITTED Thursday, July 13, 2023, 03:56 pm

FINAL COPY (Approved by the Prothonotary Clerk)

**COMPLETE LIST OF DEFENDANTS:**

1. HARD ROCK HOTEL & CASINO  
1000 BOARDWALK  
ATLANTIC CITY NJ 08401
2. HARD ROCK CAFE INTERNATIONAL, INC.  
28 LIBERTY STREET  
NEW YORK NY 10005
3. HARD ROCK CAFE, INC.  
1760 MARKET STREET SUITE 1100  
PHILADELPHIA PA 19103
4. BOARDWALK 1000, LLC  
1000 BOARDWALK  
ATLANTIC CITY NJ 08401

## Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

Court of Common Pleas  
Civil Cover Sheet

Philadelphia

County

For Prothonotary Use Only:

Docket No:

July 2023 No. 01242

The information collected on this form is used solely for court administration purposes. This form does not supplement or replace the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law or rules of court.

SECTION A

## Commencement of Action:

- ☒ Complaint      ☐ Writ of Summons      ☐ Petition  
☐ Transfer from Another Jurisdiction      ☐ Declaration of Taking

Lead Plaintiff's Name:

Marisa Grasso

Lead Defendant's Name:

Hard Rock Hotel &amp; Casino

Are money damages requested? ☒ Yes    ☐ NoDollar Amount Requested: ☐ within arbitration limits  
(check one) ☒ outside arbitration limitsIs this a *Class Action Suit*?    ☐ Yes    ☒ NoIs this an *MDJ Appeal*?    ☐ Yes    ☒ No

Name of Plaintiff/Appellant's Attorney: Michael LaRosa

☐ Check here if you have no attorney (are a Self-Represented [Pro Se] Litigant)

**Nature of the Case:** Place an "X" to the left of the ONE case category that most accurately describes your **PRIMARY CASE**. If you are making more than one type of claim, check the one that you consider most important.

**TORT** (do not include Mass Tort)

- ☐ Intentional  
☐ Malicious Prosecution  
☐ Motor Vehicle  
☐ Nuisance  
☒ Premises Liability  
☐ Product Liability (does not include mass tort)  
☐ Slander/Libel/ Defamation  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTRACT** (do not include Judgments)

- ☐ Buyer Plaintiff  
☐ Debt Collection: Credit Card  
☐ Debt Collection: Other \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Employment Dispute: Discrimination  
☐ Employment Dispute: Other \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**CIVIL APPEALS**

- Administrative Agencies  
☐ Board of Assessment  
☐ Board of Elections  
☐ Dept. of Transportation  
☐ Statutory Appeal: Other \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Zoning Board  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**MASS TORT**

- ☐ Asbestos  
☐ Tobacco  
☐ Toxic Tort - DES  
☐ Toxic Tort - Implant  
☐ Toxic Waste  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**REAL PROPERTY**

- ☐ Ejectment  
☐ Eminent Domain/Condemnation  
☐ Ground Rent  
☐ Landlord/Tenant Dispute  
☐ Mortgage Foreclosure: Residential  
☐ Mortgage Foreclosure: Commercial  
☐ Partition  
☐ Quiet Title  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**MISCELLANEOUS**

- ☐ Common Law/Statutory Arbitration  
☐ Declaratory Judgment  
☐ Mandamus  
☐ Non-Domestic Relations Restraining Order  
☐ Quo Warranto  
☐ Replevin  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY**

- ☐ Dental  
☐ Legal  
☐ Medical  
☐ Other Professional: \_\_\_\_\_

Filed and Attested by the  
 Clerk of the Court  
 13 JUL 2023 03:56 pm

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
 CIVIL ACTION – LAW

MARISA GRASSO and VINCENT  
 GRASSO, h/w  
 Plaintiffs

v.

HARD ROCK HOTEL & CASINO,  
 HARD ROCK CAFÉ INTERNATIONAL,  
 INC.,  
 HARD ROCK CAFÉ, INC.,  
 BOARDWALK 1000, LLC

Defendants

NO.: July 2023  
 Docket No.: 01242

**NOTICE TO DEFEND**

**NOTICE**

You have been sued in court. If you wish to defend against the claims set forth in the following pages, you must take action within twenty (20) days after this complaint and notice are served, by entering a written appearance personally or by attorney and writing with the court your defenses or objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you by the court without further notice of any money the complaint or for any other claim of relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

*You should take this paper to your lawyer at once. If you do not have a lawyer or cannot afford one, go to or telephone the office set forth below to find out where you can get legal help.*

Philadelphia Bar Association  
 Lawyer Referral  
 and Information Service  
 One Reading Center  
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107  
 (215)238-6333  
 TTY (215)451-6197  
 One Reading Center

**NOTICE**

Le han demandado a usted en la corte. Si usted quiere defenderse de estas demandas expuestas en las paginas siguientes, usted tiene veinte (20) dias de plazo al partir de la fecha d la demanda y la notificacion. Hace falta asentar una comparencia escrita o filing en persona o con un abogado y entregar a la corte en forma escrita sus defensas o sus objeciones a las demandas en contra de su persona. Sea avisado que si usted no se defiende, la corte tomara medidas y puede continua la demanda en contra suya sin claimed in previo aviso o notificacion. Ademas, la corte Puede decidir a favor del demandante y requiere que usted cumpla con todas las provisiones de esta demanda. Usted puede perer dinero o sus propiedades u otros derechos importantes para usted.

*Lieva esta demanda a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no tiene abogado o si no tiene el dinero suficiente de pagar tal servicio. Vaya en persona o llame por telefono a la oficina cuya direccion se encuentra escrita abajo para averiguar donde se puedo conseguir asistencia legal.*

Asociacion de Licenciados  
 de Filadelfia  
 Servicio de Referencia e

Filadelfia, Pennsylvania 19107  
 (215)238-6333  
 TTY (215)451-6197 Informacion Legal

LaROSA LAW FIRM  
BY: MICHAEL LAROSA, ESQUIRE  
Identification No. 50011  
959 West Chester Pike  
Havertown, PA 19083  
(610) 924-0999

Attorney for Plaintiffs

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IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PHILADELPHIA COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
CIVIL ACTION – LAW

MARISA GRASSO and VINCENT  
GRASSO, h/w  
185 Bishop Drive  
Aston, PA 19014

Plaintiffs

v.

NO.: July 2023  
No.: 01242

HARD ROCK HOTEL & CASINO,  
1000 Boardwalk  
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

And

HARD ROCK CAFÉ INTERNATIONAL,  
INC.,  
28 Liberty Street  
New York, NY 10005

And

HARD ROCK CAFÉ, INC.  
1760 Market Street  
Suite 1100  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

And

BOARDWALK 1000, LLC  
1000 Boardwalk  
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Defendants

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**COMPLAINT**

Plaintiffs, Marisa Grasso and Vincent Grasso, husband and wife, by and through their attorney, Michael LaRosa, Esquire, aver as follows:

1. Plaintiff, Marisa Grasso, is an adult individual, who currently resides at 185

Bishop Drive Aston, PA 19014.

2. Plaintiff Vincent Grasso, is an adult individual, who currently resides at 185 Bishop Drive Aston, PA 19014.

3. Defendant, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, operates a casino resort located at 1000 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, New Jersey, 08401.

4. Defendant, Hard Rock Café, Inc., is a Pennsylvania statutory close held business corporation, with a registered office of 1760 Market Street, Suite 1100, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

5. Defendant, Hard Rock Café International, Inc., is a multinational corporation with corporate headquarters located at 28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005, that operates hotels, casinos, and restaurants throughout the world, including but not limited to 1000 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401 and 1113 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107.

6. Defendant, Boardwalk 1000, LLC, is a New Jersey limited liability company with an address located at 1000 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401.

7. It is believed and therefore averred that Defendants, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Hard Rock Café, Inc., Hard Rock Café International, Inc., and Boardwalk 1000, LLC, (hereinafter “Hard Rock”) share common ownership, direction, and control.

8. At all times relevant herein and material hereto, Plaintiff, Marisa Grasso, was a business invitee of the Defendants, lawfully walking within the premises located at 1000 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401.

9. At all times relevant herein and material hereto, Defendants, for the purposes of conducting business, did own, operate and maintain and/or did have under their exclusive



care, custody and control the aforesaid building and/or business located at 1000 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401.

10. At all times relevant herein and material hereto, Defendants acted and/or failed to act by and through their employees, agents, servants and/or representatives who were acting within the course and scope of their employment and on behalf of said Defendants.

11. This action asserts a claim for personal injuries sustained by Plaintiff, Marisa Grasso, resulting from a fall incident, which occurred on the aforesaid property owned and operated by the aforesaid Defendants.

#### **VENUE AND JURISDICITON**

12. Pursuant to 231 Pa. Code. Rule 2179, venue against a corporation is proper in a location where the corporation or similar entity regularly conducts business.

13. Venue in Philadelphia County is proper where Defendants regularly conduct business in Philadelphia County, including but not limited to operating a restaurant and a direct advertising campaign for the Atlantic City hotel and casino.

#### **COUNT I - NEGLIGENCE**

**MARISA GRASSO v. HARD ROCK HOTEL AND CASINO, HARD ROCK CAFÉ,  
INC., HARD ROCK CAFÉ INTERNATIONAL, INC., AND  
BOARDWALK 1000, LLC  
(collectively "HARD ROCK")**

14. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 13 are incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth at length.

15. On or about September 14, 2021 Plaintiff, Marisa Grasso, was a customer and/or patron of Defendants, lawfully walking in the casino located at 1000 Boardwalk Atlantic City, NJ 08401, when Plaintiff tripped on a defective area of the floor where the tile and carpet of the floor meet in a main thoroughfare of the casino, causing Marisa Grasso to



trip and fall, striking the ground and sustaining injuries.

16. The area and defect that resulted in Plaintiff's fall can be seen in these photographs taken shortly after the fall:

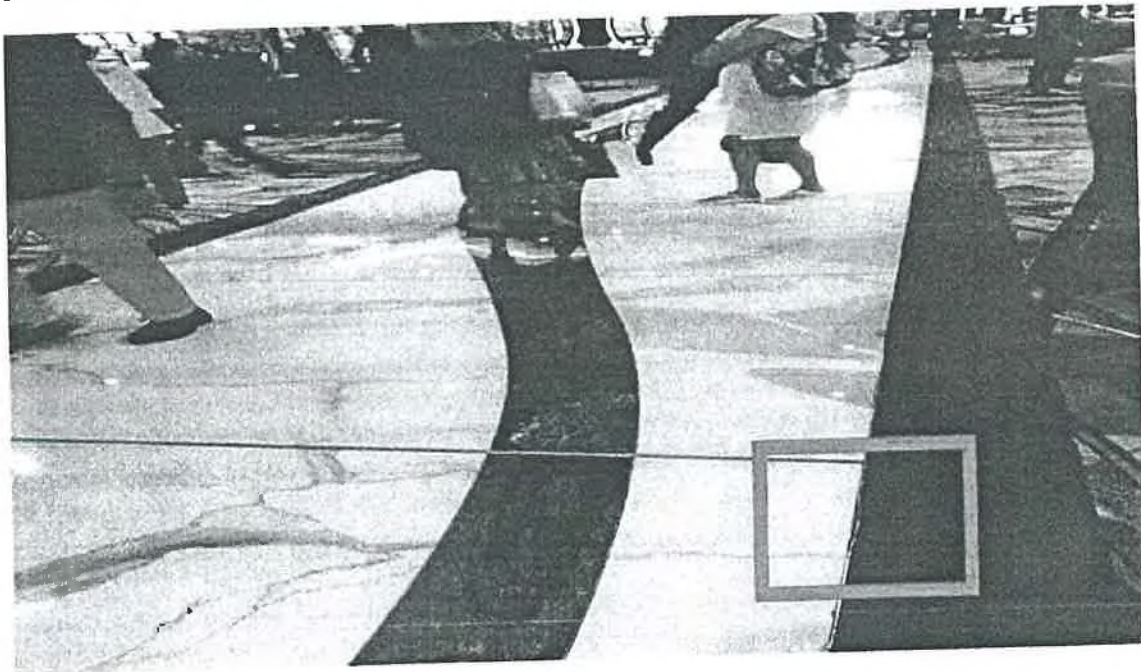
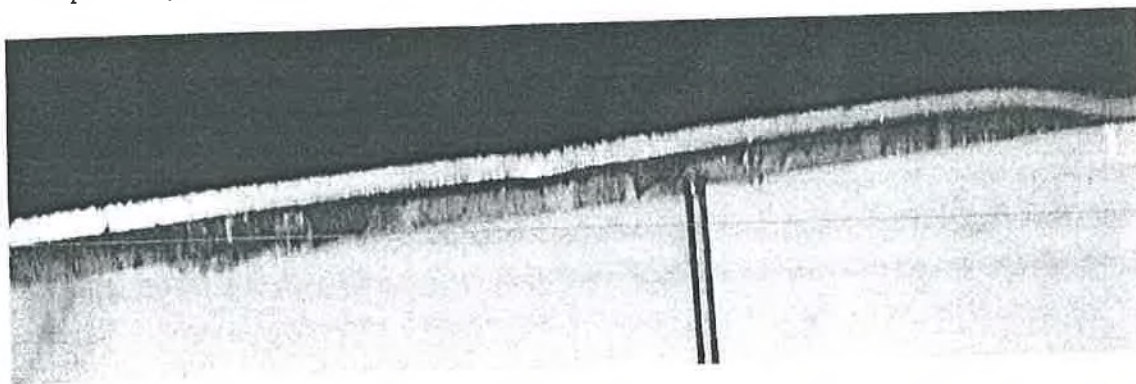


Photo of the thoroughfare showing the raised carpet area where the carpet meets the tile in close proximity to the gaming table immediately to the right.



Close of photograph of the defective area showing the carpet curled back and raised off of the

floor.

17. The aforesaid defective condition had been present on the floor of the casino a sufficient time for the Defendants' employees that they could have and should have noticed, identified, warned patrons of said condition and rectified the defect prior to Plaintiff's fall and injuries.

18. The defendants failed to provide any warnings to patrons of the defective condition on the floor of the defendants' casino prior to plaintiff's fall.

19. Plaintiff avers that it was the duty of the Defendants to keep and maintain the aforesaid premises in a good and safe condition so that same should not constitute a menace, danger, nuisance, snare or trap for persons lawfully thereon.

20. Notwithstanding said duty at the time of the occurrence, hereinafter set forth and for a long time prior thereto, Defendants negligently permitted the aforementioned property to become and remain in a dangerous and/or defective condition, to wit, the upturned carpet where the carpet meets the tile, causing the floor of the casino to constitute a menace, danger, nuisance, snare, and/or trap for persons lawfully thereon.

21. Defendants had knowledge of the defective condition and sufficient notice of the existence of the aforementioned dangerous condition on the above premises in order to either warn or correct said defective and dangerous condition as aforesaid.

22. On or about the aforesaid date, time and place, Plaintiff, while lawfully walking within the aforesaid premises, was caused to trip and fall on the defective condition and strike the ground with great force and violence and was further caused to sustain injuries and damages as will be more fully set forth hereafter.

23. At all times material hereto, Plaintiff acted in a careful, cautious, reasonable and prudent manner and was free from any comparative negligence.

24. At all times material hereto, Plaintiff was free from any comparative negligence and did not in any manner assume the risk of injury and/or accident.

25. The aforementioned incident and resulting injuries and/or damages were due, in no part whatsoever, to any act or failure to act on the part of the Plaintiff.

26. The aforementioned incident and resulting injuries and/or damages sustained by Plaintiff directly and proximately resulted from the negligence, carelessness and unlawfulness of Defendants whose conduct consisted of, but was not limited to, the following:

- a. Failing to maintain the premises in a condition which would protect and safeguard the welfare of persons lawfully thereon;
- b. Permitting the premises to become and remain in a dangerous and/or defective state so as to constitute a menace, danger, nuisance, snare and trap for persons lawfully thereon;
- c. Failing to inspect the premises at reasonable intervals in order to determine its condition so as to repair any defects therein;
- d. Failing to issue any warning, verbal, written, actual and/or constructive, to persons lawfully thereon of the dangerous condition which existed at the area where the casino's seamless tile floor meets the carpet, and in close proximity to gambling tables;
- e. Permitting Plaintiff to travel on said floor when Defendant knew or in the exercise of reasonable care should have known that it was dangerous to do so and involved an unreasonable risk of harm to persons so doing;
- f. Failing to provide persons thereon with a safe manner to travel on said premises;
- g. Failing to maintain the said premises in a manner consistent with and in conformity with the defendants' own standard of care and safety and in accordance with the laws of

the State of New Jersey;

h. Causing the existence of the dangerous and defective condition encountered by the Plaintiff causing her fall;

i. Despite being aware of the dangerously defective condition existing at the time of the Plaintiff's fall, the Defendants failed to cordon off this dangerous floor area upon which the Plaintiff fell and continued to invite visitors to enter and walk upon the Defendants' casino floor despite the Defendants' knowledge of the defective condition and danger to the public business invitees;

j. Failing to post adequate warning signs, barrier and/or barricades in an effort to alert those persons lawfully thereon of the dangerous condition which existed; and

k. Violating the standard of care due to public, business invitees;

27. As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid incident, Plaintiff suffered injuries which are or may be permanent including, but not limited to, injuries to both of her knees, resulting in a root tear of the posterior horn of the medial menisci, requiring arthroscopic surgery in both knees for medial meniscectomies, and damages to her muscular skeletal system and nervous system, which have been and may in the future be the cause of great pain, suffering, mental anguish and humiliation.

28. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned incident and resulting injuries and/or damages, Plaintiff suffered and/or suffers and/or will continue to suffer from physical pain, suffering and inconvenience of her injuries due to Defendants' negligence.

29. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned incident and resulting injuries and/or damages, Plaintiff suffered and/or suffers and/or may continue to suffer shock and injuries to her nerves and nervous system and has suffered and/or suffers and/or continues to suffer emotional distress.

30. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned incident and resulting injuries and/or damages, Plaintiff has been deprived and/or is deprived and/or may continue to be deprived of the ordinary pleasures of life.

31. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned incident and resulting injuries and/or damages, Plaintiff has been compelled and/or is compelled and/or may continue to be compelled to expend monies for medical aids, medicines and/or similar medical and/or medically related instrumentalities and modalities, surgery and modalities which are recoverable under the laws of Pennsylvania.

32. As a further result of this accident, Plaintiff has suffered a loss of her earnings and an impairment of her earning capacity and power, which said loss of earning and/or impairment of her earning capacity or power which are recoverable under the laws of Pennsylvania.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Marisa Grasso, respectfully demands judgment in her favor and against Defendants, Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, Hard Rock Café, Inc., Hard Rock Café International, Inc., and Boardwalk 1000, LLC, in an amount greater than FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000.00) together with costs of suit and interest allowable by law.

**COUNT II – LOSS OF CONSORTIUM**

**VINCENT GRASSO v. HARD ROCK HOTEL AND CASINO, HARD ROCK CAFÉ,**  
**INC., HARD ROCK CAFÉ INTERNATIONAL, INC., AND**  
**BOARDWALK 1000, LLC**  
**(collectively “HARD ROCK”)**

33. The allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 33 are incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth at length.

34. Plaintiff, Vincent Grasso, is the lawfully wedded husband of Plaintiff, Marisa Grasso.

35. As a result of the injuries and damages sustained by Plaintiff, Marisa Grasso, Plaintiff, Vincent Grasso, has been deprived of the assistance, society, comfort and companionship of his wife,



Marisa Grasso, and as a result has suffered and will continue to suffer great mental and emotional distress and anguish, all to his great financial detriment and loss.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Vincent Grasso, respectfully demands judgment in his favor and against Defendants, Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, Hard Rock Café, Inc., Hard Rock Café International, Inc., and Boardwalk 1000, LLC in an amount greater than FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000.00) together with costs of suit and interest allowable by law.

Respectfully submitted,

LaROSA LAW FIRM

DATED: 7/13/2023

BY: /s/ Michael LaRosa  
MICHAEL LAROSA, ESQUIRE  
Attorney for Plaintiff

**VERIFICATION**

I, MARISA GRASSO, hereby verify that I am the Plaintiff in this action and that the statements made in the foregoing pleadings are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. The undersigned understands that the statements therein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. Section 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

DATE:

7/13/23

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PLAINTIFF, MARISA GRASSO